

Capital Planning Committee Meeting Minutes September 29, 2016

In attendance were: Steve Andrew
Charles Foscett
Anthony Lionetta
Mike Morse
Brian Rehrig (left at 6:00pm)
Sandy Pooler
Amy Fidalgo

Not in attendance: Diane Johnson
Barbara Thornton
Richard Viscay

Other attendees: Timur Yontar, 58 Bates Road
Mara Klein Collins, Chair COA Board, 18 Hamilton
Jim Munsey, Vice Chair COA

- **Meeting Opened:** Charlie Foscett opened the meeting at 5:05pm. The minutes of April 27, 2016 and September 8, 2016 were reviewed and accepted. Charlie Foscett made note of the revised meeting schedule and the Committee agreed the new schedule is satisfactory.
- **CPC liaison to Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC):** Brian Rehrig offered to serve as the CPC liaison to the Community Preservation Act Committee. Charlie Foscett asked for consensus from the Committee; all voted in favor. Brian Rehrig reviewed the CPAC warrant articles that will be presented at Special Town Meeting. Both projects were presented to the CPC and the public last year; they were deferred until now because both involve historic resources and it took time to get the appropriate contractual agreements in place.

One project is for \$35k for preservation work and engineering assessment at Jason Russell House, the other is \$20k to reroof and protect the Old Schwamb Mill. Tony Lionetta said he didn't know CPA funds could be used for non-Town owned projects; Brian Rehrig confirmed these types of projects are equally eligible. Charlie Foscett asked about how the Town will monitor private property when CPA funding is involved. Sandy Pooler said some communities utilize historical committees to make sure the work is being done properly. Arlington uses the Arlington Historic Commission and Jim Feeney, Assistant Town Manager, will assist in monitoring and confirming that the work is being done properly. Charlie Foscett asked for a motion for the CPC to support the CPAC on these two warrant articles. The Committee voted 5-1 to support the articles.

- **Review of Sub-Committee organization:** Charlie Foscett stated that the Facilities Department is now under Public Works and Infrastructure in the organization chart.
- **Planned sub-committee hearings and notice to departments:** Charlie Foscett encouraged sub-committees to figure out what dates work best with them in order to communicate with

department heads. Sub-Committees will most likely start presenting their recommendations to the CPC starting in October.

- **Review FY2018-2022 Submissions from Departments:** This item was incorrectly referred to as “FY2017-FY2021 Submissions” on the agenda. Sandy Pooler gave a brief summary on the submissions to date and stated that some requests were adjusted after input from the Town Manager. Brian Rehrig will be working with Adam Kurowski to move the information from the request forms into the Access Database. Tony Lionetta requested that Richard Viscay provide residual balances of prior year requests to the Sub-Committees to use as they meet with Department Heads in upcoming weeks.
- **Accessing new database forms and other improvements:** Amy Fidalgo and Sandy Pooler gave an overview on the updates that have been made to the form in order for the Sub-Committee to add their recommendations to each request.
- **Discussion of Major Issues:** The CPC discussed various warrant articles for Special Town Meeting. Michael Morse gave the Committee an overview of Article 7, Acceptance of Legislation/Use of Parking Meter Revenue without Appropriation. The CPC reviewed Articles 2, Capital Budget/Ottoson School Modular Classrooms and Article 3, Capital Budget/Thompson School Expansion. Charlie Foscett stated that Thompson was voted to be debt excluded last spring, which has no impact on the non-exempt capital budget if the expenditure stays within \$4 million as announced for the referendum. The Committee discussed the anticipated recommendations the School Department will make to the School Enrollment Task Force Group at the beginning of October. Charlie Foscett asked for a motion for the CPC to support both warrant articles, subject to the anticipated recommendation of the Superintendent for no modular classrooms, and subject to the anticipated recommendation of 4 million dollars of excluded debt. The Committee voted 5-1 in favor.
- **Planning Hearings at Capital Planning Committee meetings:** The Committee discussed the timeline for upcoming hearings. The Finance Sub-Committee and the Community Safety Sub-Committee might be able to present in October. Charlie Foscett said that the School Department hearing needs to be scheduled.
- **Municipal Modernization Act effect on Arlington and Capital Planning:** Sandy Pooler provided summaries from the Governor’s office explaining what certain relevant sections of the Act means for the Town. The Committee discussed the summary of BAN changes, bond premiums, and debt purposes. The Committee noted that the citations in the CPC report to TM will need to be updated for the next annual Town Meeting.
- **New Business, Additional Comments:** Tony Lionetta expressed concerns over recent significant debt exclusion votes including authorized funding for Minuteman School. Charlie Foscett said that he has an exempt and non-exempt debt schedule on a spreadsheet, which serves as a helpful resource when looking at the bigger picture for large projects. The Long Range Planning Committee also creates a similar document. Michael Morse added that the Town is nowhere near close to the statutory debt limit. Tony Lionetta noted that it is still a tax payer burden.
- **Public Input:** Mara Klein Collins said that she appreciated being able to witness the Committee’s process and attend their meeting, and for the funding provided in the past. She stated that 60% of Arlington seniors own homes and pay taxes; if taxes go up the seniors will move and then there will be even more students for the Town to accommodate.

Steve Andrew expressed concerns with the level of oversight of CPA projects, and the CPC endorsing the Community Preservation Act Committee's warrant articles that fund projects for assets not owned by the Town. He added that he will continue to oppose CPA funding for non-Town organizations. Charlie Foskett stated that as the CPC liaison to the CPAC last funding cycle, he was involved with the oversight of the application process last year. Charlie Foskett said that he shares concerns with the oversight of funds going to non-town organizations, but Town Meeting and the citizens of the Town voted for CPA so the CPC should fully support it, and the Town has staff and a supervisory committee that will continue to monitor these projects.

Adjournment